



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,725	08/17/2001	Shigeru Yano	018793-251	3808

7590 02/26/2003

Robert G Mukai  
Burns Doane Swecker & Mathis  
PO Box 1404  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

VO, HAI

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

J

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/913,725	<b>Applicant(s)</b> YANO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Hai Vo	<b>Art Unit</b> 1771	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2002.
- 2a)  This action is FINAL.
- 2b)  This action is non-final.
- 3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4)  Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6)  Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11)  The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a)  approved b)  disapproved by the Examiner.
 

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election with traverse of Group I, claims 1-7 in Paper No. 4 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that claim 1 is patentable over JP 11-158305. This is not found persuasive because the examiner maintains that JP'305 strongly suggests the claimed subject matter (see rejections below).  
  
The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
2. Applicants have the right to request rejoinder claims 8 and 9 with the rest of the claims once allowable claims have been indicated.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:  
  
(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 11-158305 in view of Kawaguchi et al (US 4,794,128). The page numbers referred to below correspond to those of the English translation of the Japanese Patent JP 11-158305. JP'305 discloses a porous film being formed from a resin composition containing (A) 25 to 50 parts by weight of polyolefin resin that includes 75 to 98 wt% of linear low density polyethylene and 2 to 25 wt% of branched low density polyethylene and (B) 75 to 50 parts by weight of an inorganic filler and 0.5 to 10 parts by weight of a lubricant (abstract). JP'305 fails to teach or disclose the presence of liquid ethylene-alpha-olefin oligomer as a lubricant in the resin

Art Unit: 1771

composition. Kawaguchi teaches a porous film comprising 30 parts by weight of ethylene-alpha-olefin oligomer (Lucant™) based on 100 parts by weight of polyolefin resin (table 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the ethylene-alpha-olefin oligomer singly or in combination with the lubricant of JP'305 motivated by the desire to influence the dispersibility of the inorganic filler, stretchability and softness of the film. With regard to claim 2, since the porous film of JP'305 as modified by Kawaguchi is formed from the same resin composition, it is the examiner's position that the viscosity of the ethylene-alpha-olefin oligomer would be inherently present.

With regard to claims 3, 4 and 7, JP'305 teaches the porous film having the moisture vapor transmission, uniformity of thickness, and thickness meeting the specific range required by the claims (page 4, [0025]).

With regard to claims 5 and 6, since the porous film of JP'035 as modified by Kawaguchi is formed from the same resins with the same composition and the porous film having the moisture vapor transmission, uniformity of thickness meeting the specific range required by the claims, it is the examiner's position that the ratio of the rigidity to the thickness as well as the ratio of the extrudation start time to the thickness would be inherently present.

### ***Double Patenting***

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214

Art Unit: 1771

USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1-3 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7 of copending Application No. 09/772854. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the combination of claims 1, 3 and 7 of copending Application No. 09/772854 encompass the claimed subject matter with an additional limitation of the presence of polypropylene in the resin composition.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
8. The art rejections in Paper no. 3 have been overcome by the present argument.

#### ***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Vo whose telephone number is (703) 605-4426.

Art Unit: 1771

The examiner can normally be reached on Tue-Fri, 8:30-6:00 and on alternating Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (703) 308-2414. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

HV  
February 9, 2003



TERREL MORRIS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700